

2009 AMGA ANNUAL MEETING



Moab, Utah • October 27-31

Clinic Provider Biographies

Amos Whiting

Amos is a fully certified AMGA/IFMGA mountain guide with 13 years guiding experience. Amos teaches all AMGA disciplines, from Tope Rope Site Manager to Rock, Alpine and Ski Courses. Amos teaches Level 1-3 avalanche education courses for the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) and serves on the board for the Certified Guides Federation. His B.A. in Adventure Education from Prescott College, combined with an IFMGA certification, creates an excellent combination of education and technical skills to bring to the AMGA instructor pool. Amos also works as an independent guide abroad in Europe, Mexico, South America and Asia. He lives outside of Aspen, CO and is the Head Guide for Aspen Expeditions.

Michael Silitch

Michael Silitch is an internationally certified UIAGM/IFMGA mountain and ski guide. Certified by The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) in alpine, rock and ski disciplines, Michael sits on the technical committee as well as being a guide trainer and examiner for the AMGA. He is also the only American guide to be a member of both the French and the Swiss Mountain Guide's Associations.

Jeff Ward

Jeff is a fully certified IFMGA guide with certifications from the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) in rock, alpine, and ski mountaineering. In addition, Jeff is a trip leader on Alaska's Denali, a senior guide on Mt. Rainier, and a senior guide for International Mountain Guides. He became certified as a Wilderness EMT in 1996 and is currently certified as a Wilderness First Responder. Jeff has also completed a Level 3 Avalanche Course.

Christian Santelices

Christian Santelices believes that experiencing nature first hand has the power to transform people's lives. As a fully certified IFMGA/UIAGM Mountain Guide, professional photographer, public speaker, writer, and community activist, his career has been dedicated to helping facilitate this process. During the summer months you'll find him working in the Tetons as a Senior Guide for Exum Mountain Guides. The rest of the year he teaches avalanche

courses, ski guides, and leads custom adventures and corporate community building retreats worldwide through his guiding company Aerial Boundaries.

Ed Crothers

Ed is AMGA's Accreditation Director and an AMGA Certified Rock Instructor. Ed is a professional mountain guide and former owner of the Colorado Mountain School in Estes Park. From 1976 to 1988 he worked as a land surveyor in Grand County, Colorado. Afterwards he spent ten years instructing for the Colorado Outward Bound School. There he trained staff and students in all aspects of wilderness navigation.

Connie Sciolino

Connie Sciolino was born and raised on the East Coast but soon realized that it was the mountains of the West that would be her home. Moving to Jackson, WY right after college she began a new life of outdoor pursuits. She began as an instructor at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort where she honed her skiing skills and learned about all the possibilities the mountains had to offer. The backcountry was soon her new friend. From skiing to trail running to rock climbing she realized the mountains had it all. She moved to Boulder a year ago to spend a little less time in the snow and a little more time on the rocks and trails.

She has a Master's degree in Exercise Science which has offered her opportunities throughout her career as a group fitness instructor, a running clinician and now as a strength coach. She is certified as a Strength & Conditioning Specialist through NSCA and now runs the Mountain Athlete gym in Boulder. Before leaving Jackson, she became a guide with Exum Mountain Guides and now runs the Exum Boulder branch of that guide service with her husband.

Marcus Beck

Markus' passion for the mountains stems from his swiss roots. A Swiss native, he grew up roaming the mountains from an early age on forming an intuitive understanding of the mountains. A highlight in his career, Markus accomplished the first snowboard descent of Tharpu Chuli in the Nepal Himalaya. Eventually, he turned his passion into his profession by becoming a certified, full-time ski and mountain guide and founded Alpine World Ascents in 2000.

One of an elite few guides in the U.S. with both AMGA and IFMGA certification, Markus has passed rigorous trainings and certifications in Alpine Mountaineering, Rock and Ice Climbing and Ski Mountaineering. He is a Swiss-certified Level 3 Ski and Snowboard Instructor and Instructor Trainer, an AIARE Level 2 avalanche lead-instructor and member of the instructor pool, and a backcountry observer for the CAIC. Markus has a Masters Degree from the University of Bern in Switzerland in Education and Sports and speaks six languages.

At home in the mountains anywhere around the world, Markus accompanies his guests to many different places- popular, exotic, new or even unknown ones. With his infectious love and passion for the mountains, he carries the adventurous spirit through in his guiding on the world's great climbs and ski tours.

Bela Vadasz

Bela is a Certified Rock, Alpine and Ski Mountaineering Guide and was one of the first American Guides to become internationally Certified by the UIAGM/IFMGA through the AMGA. Bela is an AMGA Instructor/Examiner for the Alpine and Ski Mountaineering Guide Training programs and an active member of the Technical Committee.

Don Pachner

Don Pachner is president of the insurance brokerage and consulting firm Pachner & Associates, LLC specializing in insurance for the outdoor recreation industry, nature education and research, and environmental conservation organizations. Don is an active volunteer with not-for-profit environmental and outdoor organizations, serves on regional and state boards and committees of Sierra Club, and leads a trail maintenance crew in the Shawangunks. Don worked for 25 years handling commercial insurance in a large insurance brokerage office in New York City before starting Pachner & Associates in 2003. When not working or volunteering, Don can be found photographing and learning about the natural world.

Clinic Descriptions

Crevasse Rescue – Michael Silitch

When traveling on a glacier the best thing is not to fall in a crevasse. But, as we all know, things happen. Michael will focus on the components used in crevasse rescue and go over the principals of a crevasse rescue system: arresting the fall, creating a rescue anchor, how to transfer the load to the anchor, assessing the situation, attending to the victim, prepare the edge of the crevasse, extending the anchor and lastly, rescuing the victim.

Off Width Climbing Techniques – Amos Whiting

Bring tape, long-sleeved shirt, pants and a willingness to suffer.

Crevasse Rescue – Jeff Ward

Raising systems in crevasse rescue are very similar to the raising systems we use in the rock environment, but there are some subtle differences. This clinic will address the differences and show you how to deal with these added difficulties and avoid common mistakes. The crevasse rescue clinic will focus on:

- creating and calculating mechanical advantage
- calculating loads distributed to the anchor
- reducing friction in system
- single-person and team rescue

Leadership – Christian Santelices

Christian will discuss the principles of leadership as they pertain to the guiding profession. From his twenty years experience as a guide and educator he will share his insights on how guides can maximize their own leadership skills allowing them

to work more effectively with individuals and groups. Topics will include coaching techniques, clients rewards, self awareness, and reflection, among others. Participants are encouraged to participate in a lively discussion.

GPS Navigation for Guides – Ed Crothers

This clinic will explore the basic functions of most GPS units used by guides today. Topics will include: GPS systems; marking waypoints in the field and on a map; creating routes; proper interfaces with maps, datums, and formats; and some simple tips for using in conjunction with TOPO program. The GPS is becoming a vital tool for increasing efficiency in difficult conditions, but there are some simple mistakes that are all too common. Designed for those with little or no GPS experience. Bring a GPS if you have one.

Short Roping – Michael Silitch

Allowing a client to move unsupervised where a slip might result in injury is not an option for guides. By shortening the rope, guides can maintain adequate supervision of clients without the problems associated with too much rope in relatively easy terrain. Michael will dive into the aspects of short roping in its pure form, which involves the guide and client moving together constantly.

Mountain Athlete: Strength, Work Capacity, Durability – Connie Sciolino

This clinic will give you a taste of how we at Mountain Athlete train athletes to perform better in their sport or job. Originally started with an idea to train Exum

Mountain Guides, Mountain Athlete has developed into a training program suitable for any athlete. With strength as our foundation we can increase an athletes work capacity and durability to help them perform better, longer and faster. We train hard. We expect a lot. We give you the tools to perform better. The clinic will include an hour-long training session and time at the end for questions.

Avalanche Beacon – Markus Beck

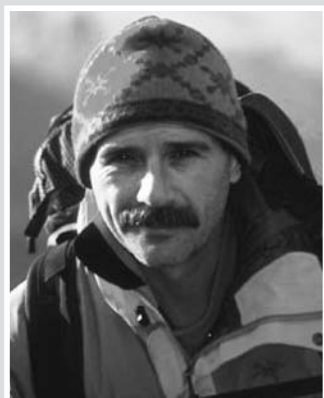
Objectives:

- Digital vs analog
- Latest technology update
- Search strategies for a variety of burial scenarios
- Review single burials
- Multi-burials a) not close proximity b) close proximity c) combination
- Practice with, compare different models (BCA, Mammut, Pieps, Orthovox)
- Exchange personal experiences, information, opinions

Entering the Ski Program – Bela Vadasz

Topics include:

- Meeting the prerequisites
- Skiing Standard
- Skiing Technical, resources available
- Avalanche Education and preparation for the Ski Program
- Adjusting from personal recreational backcountry skiing to professional ski guiding
- Candidate expectations
- Instructor/examiner expectations



JACK TACKLE

Alaska Alpine Style – 30 Years of New Routes

Having lived most of his life in Montana, Jack grew up in the mountains fishing and hunting with his father, who was a research scientist for the Forest Service. It was not until the middle of college, just before turning twenty, that he discovered technical climbing. Jack quickly made up for lost time, developing a focus from the beginning on alpine climbing expeditions and establishing first ascents.

The past thirty-four years Jack has pursued all types of climbing throughout many different ranges of the world- while always maintaining an eye on unclimbed routes. He has done numerous trips to the Himalaya, South America, and Alaska. Jack is best known for climbing in Alaska. He has done 30 separate trips, combining both attempts and successes since 1976 and completed 12 major first ascents in Alaska's various ranges. Alaska Alpine Style covers 30 years of mostly alpine climbing expeditions in Alaska. Jack's objectives have been mostly new routes, alpine style on large alpine objectives with just one other person.